

It's not often that Sherie Plumb gets beaten in any of the potato classes. Being the lady she is she takes my win with good grace. After all we are good friends. The reason for my smile, I had just beaten the potato supremo with a lovely dish of 'Amour' in the coloured class at the NVS Southern Branch Championships.

Mind you Sherie got her own back by beating me in the white potato class with a lovely dish of 'Winston'.



My winning entry in the coloured potato class. A very well matched dish of 'Amour'. Originally bred from a 'Cara' cross by The Scottish Crop Research Institute in 1989 and reintroduced by JBA potatoes by special request of the National Vegetable Society. JBA potatoes are very active in their support of shows by sponsoring potato classes at many top events throughout the British Isles.

This is the high quality entry in the South of England Potato Championship sponsored by JBA potatoes.



go to the outgoing Show Secretary Chris Neel and his wife Jane, who have done a sterling job running the show over the last five years.



For the second year running I was runner up to Sherie. This class calls for three dishes of five potatoes in each dish. A difficult class only normally tackled by the dedicated potato grower.

The show was a great success. Enjoyed by visitors and exhibitors alike. So my thanks must



Later this year I shall be running the NVS Judging Exams in my home village of Hythe. This calls for a lot of veg in order to replicate a mini show for the candidates to judge. This means I often have to badger exhibitors at various shows to give up their entries for the good of other members. Several members at the New Forest Show helped me out, especially Rob Holmes of Mid Wales, Chris Hewlett and Bob Brown of Broughton, and Jonathon Randall who gave up some of his prize winners. By the way congratulations to Jonathon on his win in the long carrot class.

I was mainly after root crops, as these can be dibbered back into the ground with little loss of condition.



The long parsnips are a little trickier. I suspend them above the barrel and back fill with old potato compost. The secret is to exclude any air gaps around the roots.

In a few weeks these parsnips will actually regrow the top foliage. A handy way to exhibit your parsnips twice, especially if you have shows that are a couple of months apart.

Of course it's also an ideal way to preserve your show veg for the table.



Stump rooted carrots dibbered back into a deep bed take up little room. I tend to trim the tap roots a little. Put back into the soil like this the carrots will develop an even deeper red colour. As long as you have not left an air gap alongside the carrot they will keep usable for many months.

Pickled Walnuts

Back in the kitchen my wife Sally has taken the pickled walnuts out of the brine. They then had 24 hours laid out on a tray where they were turned ever 6 hours or so. Apparently being exposed to the atmosphere turns them blacker. Then it was a simple job to heat up some malt vinegar with dark brown sugar, let that cool, bottle the walnuts and pour the vinegar over the walnuts adding a little pickling spice.



Show Judging

From July onwards is a very busy time for us judges. Every weekend and sometimes mid week I can be found judging a show somewhere.

Of course I am always available to have a prospective judge shadow me. On Saturday 30th July I was judging my local show Dibden Purlieu and Hythe open, assisted by Alison Clark.



Alison has already shadowed several other judges and I am sure she will do well in the exams later this year. I will be back in August when I shall be planting out winter brassicas, broad beans and a late sowing of runner beans.

John Trim